(a) the number of fatalities of Defence aircrafts/choppers and human lives, that occurred in the past years during routine exercise;

(b) the causes for such large number of accidents;

(c) what is the estimated total loss and whether there is a provision for it in the Defence Budget and whether the aircrafts are covered by insurance; and

(d) what is the nature and status of compensation given to the families of the pilots who lost their lives?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) A total number of 65 aircraft of the Defence forces have crasehd since 1st April, 2003 till 5th March, 2007. In these accidents 58 human lives were lost.

(b) The major causes of accident are human error and technical defects. However, in each case of accident, an investigation is carried out and appropriate remedial action is taken.

(c) Besides the loss of aircraft and human lives, the estimated loss of civil property in these accidents was Rs. 10,09,348/-. In another accident which took place on 24.1.2007, the aircraft crashed in cultivated area damaging crops

At the procurement stage itself, the anticipated wastages due to aircraft accidents during the lifespan of the aircraft are taken into account.

Military aircraft are not covered by insurance.

(d) Compensation given to the families of the pilots killed are in nature of *ex-gratia*. In addition to *ex-gratia*, death gratuity, provident fund, payment from insurance scheme, special family pension are also released as per the service norms.

Statement of Naval Chief on global terrorism

1701. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Naval Chief has stated that the Indian Ocean Region has became *de-facto* home for global terrorism; and

(b) if so, what measures Government are taking to curb terrorism across the ocean?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) During a seminar on "Freedom of the Seas", the Chief of the Naval Staff had expressed his concern over acts of piracy and terrorism affecting the maritime environment in the Indian Ocean.

(b) The Indian Navy frequently conducts 'Presence & Surveillance' missions. Aircraft surveillance sorties and ship patrols are carried out at frequent intervals in close coordination by Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard. Cooperation and constructive engagement with India's maritime neighbours is also maintained to curb terrorism across the ocean.

Co-ordination between RPF and security forces

1702. SHRI RAJIV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a need for closer cordination between RPF and the Central Intelligence and Paramilitary forces in view of the recent events of terrorism on trains in Mumbai and Haryana; and

(b) whether the transfer of RPF and Railway assets protection function to the Home Ministry would be more effective for better co-ordination and to ensure accountability for the critical issue of passenger and train and security?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Necessary instructions have been issued to further streamline mechanisms for close co-ordination between RPF, Central and State Intelligence and security agencies at different levels.

(b) There is no such proposal.

Unauthorised parking lots in Delhi

1703. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the location and other details of various valid parking lots operating at present in MCD areas, indicating whether these are directly under MCD or are operated through contractors;

(b) whether Government have any assessment of the unauthorized parking lots operating in MCD areas; if so, the details thereof;